

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ATHENS 06065 111631Z

46

ACTION EUR-12

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E.O.11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, GR

SUBJECT: PAPANDREOU STEPS BACK FURTHER FROM

LOYAL OPPOSITION

1. MORE CLEARLY THAN IN THE PAST, ANDREAS PAPANDREOU HAS REJECTED THE IDEA THAT ALL GREEK PARTIES SHOULD FOR THE MOMENT HOLD THEMSELVES IN POSTURE OF LOYAL OPPOSITION. IN FACT, PAPANDREOU'S AUGUST 9 REJECTION OF THE IDEA THAT WHAT GREEK DEMOCRACY NEEDS IS A SORT OF "AGREEMENT TO DISAGREE" WAS PERHAPS FIRMER THAN ANYTHING HE HAS SAID IN THE PAST.

2. ANREAS' REMARKS WERE STIMULATED BY AN AUGUST 8 STATEMENT BY EDA WHICH INTER ALIA DESCRIBED GREEK DEMOCRACY AS STILL QUITE FRAGILE AND ADVOCATED THAT "ALL POLITICAL FORCES MUST STRENGTHEN THE GOVERNMENT IN ORDER TO EFFECTIVELY CONFRONT PRO-DICTATORIAL FORCES WHICH SEEK TO UNDERMINE DEMOCRACY..."

3. ANDREAS DENOUNCED THE EDA PROPOSAL IN PUBLIC REMARKS, DECLARING THAT PASOK'S POSTURE TOWARDS THE GOVERNMENT WILL BE ONE OF "SEVERE OPPOSITION." PAPANDREOU CHARGED THE GOVERNMENT WITH FAILURE TO BUILD THE FOUNDATIONS FOR DEMOCRACY, DELAY IN
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PAGE 02 ATHENS 06065 111631Z

CLEANING OUT FORMER JUNTA ELEMENTS, ACCEPTANCE OF THE

DIVISION OF CYPRUS AND, EXECUTION OF AN UNFAIR
ECONOMIC POLICY.

4. COMMENT: ANDREAS' SCATHING REJECTION OF EDA'S
PROPOSAL MARKS ANOTHER STEP IN HIS LONELY MARCH ALONG
A PATH TOWARDS HIS OWN BRAND OF AN "UNREMITTING
STRUGGLE." ANDREAS HAS RECENTLY ATTACKED THE GOVERNMENT FOR
ALLEGEDLY TRYING TO POLARIZE GREECE BUT IT WOULD ALMOST SEEM
THAT HE EXPECTS AND/OR WOULD WELCOME SUCH POLARIZATION,
AND WANTS EARLY TO OCCUPY THE MOST VISIBLE
POSITION ON ONE SIDE. SO FAR AT LEAST, NO OTHER
ESTABLISHED POLITICAL GROUP SEEMS READY TO JOIN HIM
THERE. EDA'S NEAR ADVOCACY OF SUPPORT FOR THE
GOVERNMENT TRACKS WITH SOME OF ITS PAST STATEMENT.
KUBISCH

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